

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for the production of a cork brand on a plug made of foamed thermoplastic, ~~in which by means~~ wherein application of the cork brand on the plug is performed by way of a laser beam, the plug including thermally recolorable pigments that are recolored upon application of the laser beam to the plug, the laser beam characterized in that ~~it has a the focus point of the laser beam used that~~ lies in a plane different from the surface of the plug.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the focus point of the laser beam is in a plane, seen in the direction of the laser beam, before the surface of the plug.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the laser beam wobble frequency is smaller than the wobble frequency for the same, but “unfoamed” plastic.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that the energy supplied to a given area of the cork brand, over the time of ~~the~~ lasering, integrated with the laser, essentially corresponds to the energy supplied to the same plastic in unfoamed form.

5. (New) Method for the production of a cork brand on a plug made of foamed thermoplastic by applying heat to thermally recolorable pigments of the plug, wherein heat is applied by a laser having an unfocused beam, wherein the focus point of the laser beam lies in a plane different from the surface of the plug.